

## Memorandum

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To: **ALL SD and SDSEE SENIOR ENGINEERS**  
**JAMES E. DAVIS**  
**TONY M. MARQUEZ**  
**ROBERT A. STOTT**

Date: April 10, 2006

From: **KEVIN J. THOMPSON**  
Deputy Division Chief  
Structure Design  
Division of Engineering Services

Subject: Implementation of the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications*

Effective April 1, 2006, all current bridge design projects without Type Selection approval (phase K, 0 and 1) shall conform to the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, Third Edition, with 2005 Interim Revisions*, and as amended by Caltrans (BDS-LRFD). This requirement applies to structure design of all components. The transition to BDS-LRFD for geotechnical design will begin implementation through coordination between Division of Engineering Services (DES), Structure Design and Geotechnical Services. Full implementation of BDS-LRFD for substructure design is scheduled for April 1, 2007. This requirement applies to all projects designed by DES, Structure Design, Structure Design Services & Earthquake Engineering or by consulting engineers under contract with DES.

The geotechnical design of deep foundations, which are scheduled to be completed prior to April 1, 2007 and earth retaining systems designs completed prior to October 1, 2010 are exempt from BDS-LRFD compliance. Externally financed projects done by consulting engineers shall conform to the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design specifications* on new design projects beginning October 1, 2006. Project specific exceptions to BDS-LRFD will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the Type Selection meeting. Exceptions will require the approval of both Office Chiefs on the Type Selection committee.

BDS-LRFD shall be the basis of all Advance Planning Studies, preliminary geotechnical investigations, and other project supporting documentation that commence after

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April 1, 2006. Furthermore, all DES bridge design guidance material and bridge design software created or revised after April 1, 2006, shall be based on BDS-LRFD.

Purchase of the 2006 AASHTO Interim Revisions and release of v0.05 of the California Amendments to the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* are being expedited. For additional information, updates, and interim LRFD guidance material, please visit the SD intranet site:

[http://onramp.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/sd/bridge\\_design/lrfd.shtml](http://onramp.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/sd/bridge_design/lrfd.shtml)

Contact Sue Hida, Structure Design LRFD Coordinator, at (916)-227-8738 if there are any questions.

Attachments

Cc: SHida

BNewton

SD Office Chiefs